

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bearing assembly, comprising:
a pair of bearing members movable relative to one another, said pair including a first member and a second member that define a space therebetween, at least said first member having a bearing surface having a relatively thin ~~and rigid~~ coating of a polytetrafluoroethylene-based material thereupon, the coating including a thermosetting stabilizer material; and
a grease lubricant occupying the space defined between the first member and the second member, wherein the ~~thin and rigid coating of~~ polytetrafluoroethylene-based material and the grease lubricant act in conjunction with one another to lubricate the first and second members.
2. (Previously Presented) A bearing assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the coating is a polytetrafluoroethylene-based material having a solid particulate in a form selected from at least one of the group consisting of flocked, powdered, fibrous, flaked, and beaded.
3. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness of about 0.003-0.007 inch.
4. (Previously Presented) A bearing assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the first member is formed from at least one of the group consisting of steel, titanium, aluminum, nickel, and bronze.
5. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising a seal positioned in the space defined between the first member and the second member.
6. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the coating is a self-lubricating material.

7. (Currently Amended) A bearing assembly for a truck pivot joint bearing in an aircraft landing gear, the assembly comprising:

a metallic truck assembly defining an opening therein;

a pin rotatably positioned in the opening of the truck assembly;

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a truck pivot bushing positioned at least partially in the opening defined by the truck assembly, the truck pivot bushing having an inner surface proximate said pin such that a space is defined between the inner surface of the truck pivot bushing and the pin, at least a portion of the inner surface of the truck pivot bushing having a relatively thin ~~and rigid~~ coating of a self-lubricating, greaseless material, the coating including a thermosetting stabilizer material; and

a grease lubricant occupying the space defined between the pivot bushing and the pin.

8. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 7, wherein the coating is a polytetrafluoroethylene-based material.

9. (Previously Presented) A bearing assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the coating has a solid particulate in a form selected from at least one of the group consisting of flocked, powdered, fibrous, flaked, and beaded.

10. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 7, wherein the coating has a thickness of about 0.003-0.007 inch.

11. (Previously Presented) A bearing assembly according to Claim 7, wherein the pivot bushing is formed from at least one of the group consisting of steel, titanium, aluminum, nickel, and bronze.

12. (Original) A bearing assembly according to Claim 7, further comprising a seal positioned in the space defined between the truck assembly and the pin.

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13. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a bearing assembly having a pair of bearing members movable relative to one another, the method comprising:

applying a relatively thin coating of a self-lubricating, greaseless material on a portion of a first member of the pair of bearing members;

positioning a second member of the pair of bearing members proximate the first member to define a space therebetween; and

introducing a grease lubricant between the first member and the second member such that the grease lubricant substantially occupies the space defined therebetween.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the grease lubricant introducing step includes introducing an extreme pressure grease.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the applying step includes coating the first member with a polytetrafluoroethylene-based material.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 13, further comprising removing the bearing assembly from an aircraft landing gear before said applying step, whereby the greaseless material and the grease lubricant are retrofitted in existing aircraft landing gear.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of lubricating a bearing assembly having a pair of bearing members movable relative to one another, the method comprising:

positioning the pair of bearing members proximate each other to define a space therebetween;

applying a coating of a polytetrafluoroethylene-based, greaseless material to at least a portion of one of the members of the pair of members; and

introducing a grease lubricant so as to occupy the space defined between the members, wherein the grease lubricant is in contact with the coating of greaseless material.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17, further comprising removing the bearing assembly from an aircraft landing gear before said applying step, whereby the greaseless material and the grease lubricant are retrofitted in existing aircraft landing gear.
